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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for notifying callers, comprising the steps of:

during a dispatch call in a dispatch system, assigning a first communications channel to a set of callers;

temporarily converting the first communications channel to a second communications channel when the first communications channel is released; ~~and~~

transmitting over the second communications channel a user-recognizable notification that a party is attempting to contact at least one of the set of callers; and

permitting at least one of the set of callers to determine whether to terminate the first communications channel in response to the receipt of the user-recognizable notification;

wherein both the first communications channel and the second communications channel are part of the dispatch system.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first communications channel is converted to the second communications channel for the shorter duration of a predetermined amount of time and a time until the first communications channel is no longer released.

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3. (original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of selectively converting the second communications channel back to the first communications channel.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification includes information that reveals the identity of the party attempting to contact at least one of the set of callers.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

terminating the first communications channel after one of the set of callers receives the transmitted notification; and

assigning a third communications channel to permit at least one of the set of callers to contact the party.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first communications channel is a traffic channel and the second communications channel is a temporary control channel.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the set of callers use communications units assigned to the first communications channel to communicate

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with one another and wherein the first communications channel is released when none of the communications units that are assigned to the first communications channel are transmitting over the first communications channel.

9. (currently amended) A method of notifying callers, comprising the steps of:

during a dispatch call in a dispatch system, assigning a first communications channel to a set of callers;

temporarily converting the first communications channel to a second communications channel when the first communications channel is released; ~~and~~

transmitting over the second communications channel to at least one of the set of callers a notification that a party is attempting to contact at least one of the set of callers; and

permitting at least one of the set of callers to determine whether to terminate the first communications channel in response to the receipt of the notification;

wherein the notification is capable of being perceived by a user and wherein both the first communications channel and the second communications channel are part of the dispatch system.

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10. (currently amended) A system for notifying callers, comprising:

at least one base station; and

an application processor, wherein said application processor assigns a first communications channel to a set of callers and instructs said base station to temporarily convert said first communications channel to a second communications channel when said first communications channel is released, wherein said system is a dispatch system;

wherein during a dispatch call, said application processor generates a message and instructs said base station to transmit said message to at least one of the set of callers over said second communications channel, wherein said message is a user-recognizable notification that a party is attempting to contact at least one of the set of callers and said application processor permits at least one of the set of callers to determine whether to terminate the first communications channel in response to the receipt of the user-recognizable notification;

wherein both the first communications channel and the second communications channel are part of the dispatch system.

11. (original) The system according to claim 10, wherein said application processor instructs said base station to convert said first communications channel to said second communications channel for the shorter duration of a predetermined amount of time and a time until said first communications channel is no longer released.

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12. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein application processor instructs said base station to selectively convert said second communications channel back to said first communications channel.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said notification includes information that reveals the identity of the party attempting to contact at least one of the set of callers.

15. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said application processor terminates said first communications channel after one of the set of callers receives said transmitted notification and assigns a third communications channel to permit at least one of the set of callers to contact the party.

16. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said first communications channel is a traffic channel and said second communications channel is a temporary control channel.

17. (original) The system according to claim 10, further comprising at least one communications unit assigned to said first communications channel, wherein the set of callers use said communications units to communicate with one another and wherein said first communications channel is released when none of said

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communications units that are assigned to said first communications channel are transmitting over said first communications channel.

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